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JAN-29-98 THU 04:38 PM

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JAN-29	04:36 PM	14357894560	1' 41"	3	SEND	(M) OK	051	

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1M 41S PAGES: 3

S/047/065



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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE: January 29, 1998NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 3

TO:

Bea Conington
Ziegler Chemical

FAX NUMBER:

1-435-789-4560

FROM:

Tony / JoelleMinerals Reclamation and Development Program



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DATE: January 29, 1998

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TO: Bud Coughlin
Ziegler Chemical

FAX NUMBER: 1-435-789-4560

FROM: Tony / Joelle
Minerals Reclamation and Development Program

PHONE: (801) 538-5291

FAX: (801) 359-3940

SUBJECT: Tom Taylor Amendment 8/047/065

REMARKS:

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December 19, 1997

Robert E. Covington
Ziegler Chemical & Mineral Company
P.O. Box 1845
Vernal, Utah 84078

Re: Amendment to Small Mining Operation Notice of Intention, Ziegler Chemical and Mineral Corporation (Ziegler), Tom Taylor Gilsonite Mine, S/047/065 (UT08300), Uintah County, Utah

Dear Mr. Covington:

The Division has reviewed the updated proposal for the Tom Taylor Mine which was submitted to the BLM on behalf of Ziegler. A copy of the proposal information and accompanying road centerline and profile drawing was received by the Division on September 17, 1997. On October 29, 1997, Division and BLM staff examined the site with Norm Haslem of Ziegler. An additional letter and map of the ore haulage route were received by the Division on November 4, 1997. Another version of the road centerline and profile drawing which included a typical cross section of the road was received by the Division on December 9, 1997 from the BLM. Under the Division's Minerals Rules this proposal would be considered an amendment to the small mining operation notice of intention. The mine is located on federal lease U-0122694.

This amendment to the small mine operation proposes using the road identified in EA 1997-21 as the "alternative road" as the main ore haulage route to avoid possible impacts to golden eagles and provide year round haulage from the mine. To use this roadway for ore haulage Ziegler will need to improve, regrade or realign sections of this existing road on BLM lands. These modifications are proposed for the section of road accessing the mine off the main access road. Based on measurements from the drawing received September 17, 1997, Ziegler proposes to realign approximately 250 feet of road, reclaim approximately 880 feet of old existing roads, and upgrade approximately 370 feet of old existing road. The typical width of the road surface is 16 feet with side slopes ranging from 2h:1v to 4h:1v.

The information submitted did not include an estimate of the disturbed area for this amendment. The definition of affected area under the Minerals Rules would include areas disturbed prior to Ziegler's operations at this site which will be reimpacted by Ziegler, and areas which were undisturbed which will also be impacted by Ziegler's operations. Assuming an average affected area road width of 20 feet would mean Ziegler's proposal would create 0.11 acre of realigned road, reclaim 0.40 acres of old road, and upgrade 0.17 acres of old road. Even though Ziegler would be reclaiming sections of existing roads, the Division cannot consider these reclaimed areas as fully released until the vegetation is successful.

Page 2
Robert Covington
S/047/065
December 19, 1997

Division rules require reseeded areas to survive up to three growing seasons and achieve 70% of pre-mining vegetative cover before a reclaimed area can be fully released. According to Division rules, this proposed amendment would increase the disturbed area by approximately 0.68 acres for an estimated total disturbance of roughly 0.80 acres. This estimate of the total amount of disturbance is well below the five acre limit of surface disturbance allowed under the Division's small mining operation notice of intention.

The BLM may accept the reclamation of the sections of existing roads as an exchange for creating the new road. If the BLM considers this type of exchange and if reclamation of this realigned or improved road is not required by the BLM, the Division could exclude the disturbance from these exchange areas from the small mine operations disturbed area. This issue would be resolved after the BLM has completed their review of this proposal.

The Division will accept and approve of this amendment, conditioned upon Ziegler agreeing to providing an estimate of the total surface disturbance proposed under this amended small mine notice. Please provide a written agreement to provide the estimate of disturbed area for this proposal, or an estimate of the disturbance.

Thank you for copying us with your proposal to the BLM. Please be advised that Ziegler will also need to receive approval from the BLM prior to initiating work on this project. Please contact me at (801) 538-5267 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Anthony A. Gallegos
Senior Reclamation Specialist

jb
cc: Norm Haslem, Ziegler Gilsonite, Bonanza
Stan Perkes, BLM State Office
Pete Sokolosky, BLM Vernal Office
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